

- The Kingdom of Swaziland, with a per capita income of US\$ 1350 , is classified as a Low-Middle-Income country. With one of the World's highest GNI coefficients at 0.61, ten percent of the population (total 1.1 million) controls over 40 percent of the wealth while 69 percent of the people live below the poverty line of E128.6 per month - US\$ 0.8 per day. *(World Development indicators 2004/Human Development Report 2004/Swaziland Budget speech 2005)*
- More than one-third of the country has been affected by drought since 2001. This has created a situation of deepening poverty and food insecurity. Over 200,000 Swazi people, mainly from the drought-prone areas, are not able to produce sufficient food for themselves and depend annually on food aid. *(FAO/WFP CFSAM Report 2004)*
- A 2000 Multiple Indicator Survey (before the major impacts of AIDS were felt) reported that 37 percent of the population was below the minimum level of dietary energy consumption. *(MIC 2000)*
- Under-five mortality, estimated by the UN at 90 per thousand in 1997, is presently estimated at 153, while life expectancy has declined to 37 from an estimated 57 years a decade ago. Approximately 40 percent of children are stunted, and 12 percent are malnourished. *(Human Dev. Report 2001/UNICEF, State of the World's Children 2005/Budget Speech 2005)*
- Out of a population of 1.1 million, over 200,000 people are living with HIV. *(NERCHA Communications 2004).*
- HIV prevalence among pregnant women has grown steadily from 3.9 percent in 1992 to 42.6 percent in 2004. Prevalence among young mothers aged 25-29 is estimated at 56 percent. *(9th National Serosurveillance Survey Report, 2005)*
- It is estimated that there are 17,000 HIV positive children in Swaziland. *(VAC 2004)*
- 10,589 pregnant women were offered services for prevention of mother to child transmission of HIV (PMTCT) by 2005. *(Swaziland UNGAS Report 2005)*
- By 2006, about 15,000 HIV infected people are on antiretroviral therapy (ART) in Swaziland - 6.5 percent of them are children.
- Approximately 20,000 households are caring for people living with AIDS
- The number of orphans in the country has increased from an estimated 12,000 in 1999 to about 70,000 in 2005. Growing by about 10,000 per year, the number of orphans is expected to rise to about 120,000 by 2010. *(RAAP 2004)*
- In addition to children who have lost either one or both parents, there are more than 60,000 other children who are highly vulnerable due to extreme poverty, parental sickness, or abuse and exploitation. *(UNICEF Humanitarian Action Report 2006)*
- Swaziland has an extremely high percentage of vulnerable households - female-headed households (41% of the population) and child-headed households (10% of the population) - many of which are affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic. *(FAO/WFP CFSAM Report 2004)*
- To ensure improved access to education for OVCs at both primary and secondary levels, the government, in 2005, allocated a total of E47 Million (US\$7.8 Million) for OVC grants. Nearly 66,000 orphans and vulnerable children benefitted from the grant.
- There are 555 Primary Schools in the Kingdom of Swaziland, with a total enrolment of 221,596 pupils (106,467 girls and 115,129 boys). Gross/Net enrolment rates are 101.26 and 84.29 respectively. Teacher/pupil ratio is 1:33. *(CSO Education statistics 2005)*
- There are 199 Secondary Schools , with a total enrolment of 71,124 students (35,518 girls and 35,606 boys). Gross/Net enrolment rates are 51.31 and 38.74 respectively. Teacher/pupil ratio is 1:17. *(CSO Education statistics 2005)*
- In the education sector it is projected that there will be an increase in children not enrolled in primary school from 3.5% in 1999 to 30% by 2015 *(MOE 1999, Impact Assessment of HIV/AIDS on the Education Sector).*
- By June 2006, 435 functioning Neighbourhood Care Points (NCPs) - a UNICEF/partners supported community initiative that provides food, psychosocial support and life skills training to orphans and vulnerable children) - have been established and catering daily for 33,000 non-school going children in various parts of the country.